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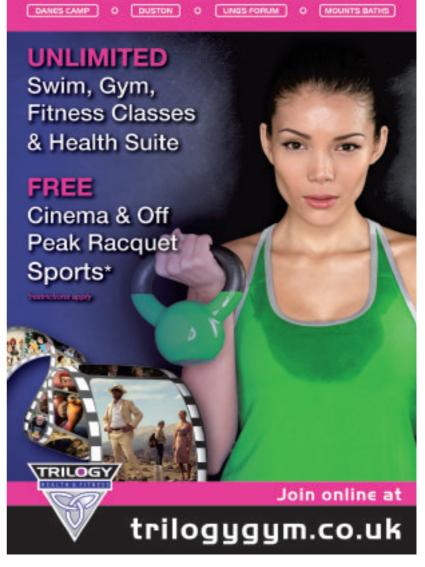
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POLICE PROMISE MORE HELP FOR RURAL AREAS

Northamptonshire Police has launched a new rural crime campaign that could lead to 'parish constables' being appointed in every countryside village in the county.

Chief Constable Adrian Lee and Police and Crime Commissioner Adam Simmonds have outlined their vision to help to reduce crime, and the fear of crime, in rural areas.

Mr Simmonds said he had listened to the frustrations of people in rural areas who were concerned about the length of time it took for emergency services to respond to 999 calls and who felt there was a lack of specialist knowledge about countryside issues.

In a bid to increase interaction with people in rural areas, a website – Rural Action – has been launched where people can get crime prevention advice and sign up for text and email alerts about crimes in their area.

Northamptonshire Police

also aims to make greater use of special constables to patrol the smaller towns and villages in the county. Mr Lee said that, depending on the number of volunteers who wanted to become specials, a 'parish constable' could be installed in every rural town or village in the county.

He said. "It is more difficult to detect rural crime as there is no CCTV and no instant response to help officers catch the criminals. We want to have a lot more visibility in rural arass

"We want parish constables who are trained to police their own community.

"I want people in rural parts of Northamptonshire to be reassured we do listen to them and understand their concerns, so I welcome the benefits from further engagement and seeing rural communities benefit from some of the changes we're making, for example the significant increase in the Special Con-

stabularv.'

Mr Simmonds said: "This campaign is aimed at offering vital reassurance to rural communities, to make sure they feel they have the support they need from the emergency services.

"Our pledge to people in rural areas is to keep them informed of what's going on in their area, to become more visible in rural area and to give them the opportunity to talk to us on a regular basis."

Mr Lee said the force was also considering using special constables to implement a similar system when responding to emergency incidents that the fire service adopted with retained firefighters.

The chief constable also said trials were due to start later this year of an fire and police 'integrated initial response vehicle' which could result in police officers and firefighters travelling in the same vehicle to get to a 999 call





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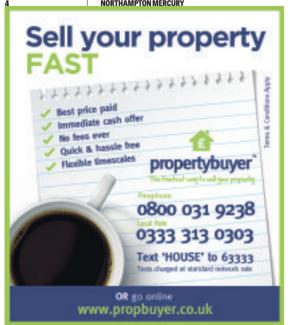
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Food and leisure lead local business growth

By Francesca Gosling

francesca.gosling@jpress.co.uk

The food, drink and leisure sector has helped drive economic growth in Northamptonshire in the past year, generating a cash value of £1.7 billion for the county in 2013,

latest figures have shown.
At a business conference held at Franklin's Gardens yesterday it was revealed that all sectors of the county's economy grew last year, apart from property and construction.

A report of the financial performance of the top 100 Northamptonshire companies, put together by business advisors Grant Thornton, showed that turnover in the county had increased from £5.37 billion to £5.91 billion.

The report stated the food, drink and leisure sector, which

It is a key market with a thriving economy

represents 14 companies and more than 9,000 employees, increased profit before tax by 137 per cent from £29.6 million in 2012 to £64.5 million in 2013.

Although the highest percentage growth came in the freight and logistics sector, which increased profits before tax from £117,000 in 2012 to £3.2 million in 2013, a rise of 2,673 per cent. The retail and wholesale sector, dominated by 99p Stores and Dr Martens Airware Group Ltd, had a growth in turnover of 18.5 per cent from £663 million to £785 million, although profit before tax was down three per

cent from £43.4 to £42 million. Property and construction was the only sector to show a turnover fall, with profit before tax down by 37 per cent to £299 million.

The report also revealed numbers on salary and employment, which showed a rise of 4.6 per cent in recruitment across sectors to 35,277 from 33,728 in 2012.

Employment numbers though went down in the business support services, freight and logistics and property and construction sectors.

Average salaries have risen from £25,165 to £25,783, a rise of 2.5 per cent.

Grant Thornton director, Mike Hughes, said: "Northamptonshire is a key market for us with a thriving economy and business scene."

Ashley Clarkson, of Grant Thornton, added: "It is great to see consistent growth across the county and this is encouraging local businesses."

businesses plan to recover from losses

■ The findings reported that over 5,000 new businesses had been registered across the county in the last year, but showed that 75 per cent of growth increases came from larger companies, while smaller businesses (SMEs) revealed some cost-related losses.

However, research released by Bibby Financial
Services suggested that East
Midlands SMEs were looking
to the next year positively.
Their report showed that 76
per cent in the area expect
to meet growth targets, with
64 per cent anticipating
sales increases and 24 per
cent aiming to recruit or invest in staff.





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Bus station jam was caused by mystery roundabout

A mini roundabout that caused chaos on the first day of Northampton's new bus station, had appeared mysteriously on the plans, a report has concluded.

Northamptonshire County Council and Northampton Borough Council - which led, designed and built the North Gate interchange - conducted their own inquiry into the town centre-wide traffic congestion that happened on Monday, March 3.

It found that, for unexplained reasons, the joint project team had inserted a mini roundabout in Bradshaw Street into the scheme before the application went to the borough council planning committee in April 2012. This was instead of the original 'Give Way' lines aimed at cars leaving the Park Inn hotel and College Street.

As buses were not given priority on March 3, many were extremely slow leaving the station. Consequently, buses queuing to enter the interchange eventually reached right around the bus station, stopping vehicles from leaving Bradshaw Street altogether.

Among other issues identified by the report were time pressures on the project team.

Councillor Sally Beardsworth (Lib Dem, Kingsthorpe) said: "This has all the hall-marks of a rush job. The pedestrian crossings still need improvement more than two months later. It's like a freezer in the winter and a sauna in the summer.

"The report doesn't address why the planning didn't pick up the roundabout issue."

The review also singled out drivers dropping off passengers and private hire cars – which the roundabout allowed to perform legitimate U-turns – further blocking the station's exit. Work to rectify the traffic issues that week cost £15,000, which will be shared between the two councils.

The report said further works still need to be carried out, although it failed to specify an estimated cost.

The roundabout was removed overnight on March 3 and by the next morning a new layout was in place.

As a result, and as well as work to enforce the ban on some vehicles using The Drapery or parking in Sheep Street, a spokes woman for the councils said traffic had since

"flowed freely". She added: "Further modifications to the traffic flow around the bus station are planned. It was always anticipated that minor changes would be made in the light of

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Cloudy2Clear Windows - Service With A Smile!



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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Trevor Skidmore feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although

that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that and Thonestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service the Northampton, Kettering, Wellingborough & Corby areas and Trevor is finding that his

approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for,

which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Trevor a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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Teenager condemns people's lack of care

A teenager has condemned passers-by who failed to help an injured man for more than 10 minutes when he had an epilespy seizure in a busy Northampton street.

Lianne Saxton, aged 16, was starting to travel home from work in her father's car at about 8pm when she spotted an apparently injured man kneeling on the pavement in Abington

Although there were several passers-by, nobody went over to check on his welfare.

Miss Saxton, who emailed the Chron to flag up the lack of communuity spirit, said she could not believe nobody else had spotted him.

She said: "He was on the floor on his knees and everybody was walking past him, avoiding him.

'I asked my dad to pull over and he did so.

While her dad rang an ambulance, she ran to the man on the floor, with people still walking

She picked his shopping up



Lianne Saxton stopped to help an epilepsy sufferer while other people walked by

that had spilled out of his bags, seeing he had a cut above his evebrow from the fall, and he showed her his epilepsy wrist-

Miss Saxton, whose 14-yearold sister has epilepsy, said: "After a couple of minutes only two other men stopped to try to help

"Everybody else was being ignorant of the matter.

"The man told me he'd had an epileptic fit over 10 minutes ago and he was trying to recover."

The ambulance arrived soon

afterwards and medics took over and confirmed the man was not seriously hurt.

Miss Saxton said: "I am completely shocked and disgusted that in more than 10 minutes, nobody tried to help the man after an epileptic seizure.

"He was in the middle of the

"I am a 16-year-old girl and it took me to help him.

"I wanted to share my story because God knows what would have happened if I didn't stop to

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Dr Jill goes back to her gardening roots

A retired Northampton General Hospital oncologist is training to be an expert in gardens designed for cancer patients.

Dr Jill Stewart is now studying horticulture and garden design at Moulton College after spending 30 years as a consultant oncologist at NGH.

Always holding a passion for plants and botanical art, she took Royal Horticultural Society exams in 2011 and then started on a foundation degree in Horticulture and Garden Design at Moulton College.

She is now competing against fellow students in a garden design competition run by the Linford Wood Medical Centre in Milton Keynes.

Simon Lewis, business development manager, said: "Our ethos is to provide integrated holistic care for our patients and we wanted to extend this beyond the centre itself.

"We approached Moulton College to see if their students wanted to get involved in designing a holistic garden in an area of land that lays next to our chemotherapy unit.

"We provided a brief, explaining the impact cancer and its treatment can have on patients, such as sensitivity to sunlight, nausea and tiredness.

"We didn't think for one moment that one of the students would already know all this and more."

Dr Stewart said the fact that current chemotherapy drugs were derived from plant molecules, as well as the idea of plant defence has always been a source of fascination, because of its usefulness in terms of cancer treatment



development.

But she always enjoyed gardening and found it relaxing after a busy day at NGH.

She said: "Clearly no patient wants to be in the situation of having to have cancer treatment.

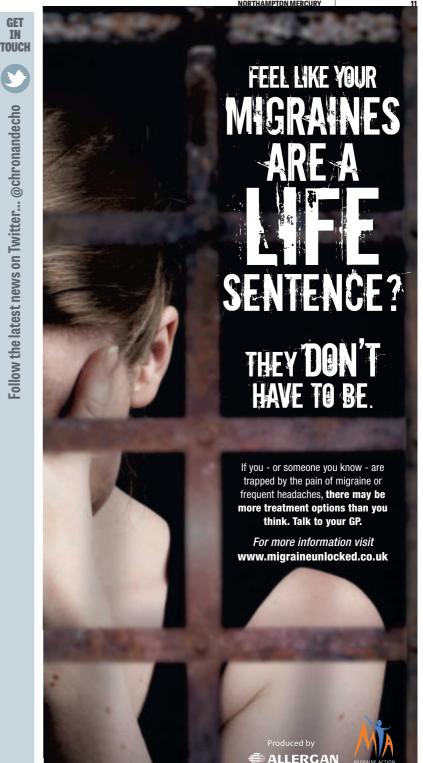
"Their life is suddenly disrupted, it becomes difficult to make plans, confidence is rocky and they may have to cope with treatment side effects that vary greatly from person to person.

"I think kindness and care, a calm and efficient environment and minimising the time that a patient has to spend being treated helps.

'A pretty garden can be a nice diversion if only for a while'

"Concentration is usually short and people may feel foggy' on chemotherapy, so a pretty and interesting garden will give a nice diversion even, if only for a few minutes.

"For those who may be short on stamina because of their treatment side effects, having an escape route into nature can really lift spirits."





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£1 million roundabout proposal at police HQ

Northamptonshire's Police and Crime Commissioner has said his office (OPCC) has set aside £500,000 to build a new roundabout at the entrance to the current police headquarters in Northampton.

 $PCC\,Adam\,Simmonds\,said\,he$ wanted to improve access to Wootton Hall, either to make the site more attractive to potential bidders, should the decision be taken to move the police headquarters, or to make the site safer for staff and visitors.

The £500,000 has been set aside in the Office of the Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commissioner's Capital Programme and it is thought this investment could be matched by Northamptonshire County Council.

An application is due to be submitted this month for a school on the Wootton Hall site that would provide space for about 1,400 pupils, aged four to 18-years-old and could open in September 2016.



The future of Wootton Hall police headquarters is under discussion

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Mr Simmonds said: "Clearly, we need to ensure this represents good value for money for both Northamptonshire Police and Northamptonshire County Council before any money is spent. Conversations have yet to take place between the OPCC and the county council to develop a

full and robust business case. including demonstration of the value for money of such an investment. Once this has happened, the matter will then be referred to me for a decision, based on advice from the assistant commissioner for resources and the force's estate's board.'

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The Royal Lancers, who were awarded the Freedom of the Borough in 2012, have recently finished their latest tour of Afghanistan.

The soldiers' visit to the town will coincide with Armed Forces Day and people in the town are being encouraged to show their appreciation for the local regiment.

Councillor David Mackintosh, leader of Northampton Borough Council, said: "It is a huge honour to welcome the 9th/12th Royal Lancers back to Northampton.

"We will be the first town to show our appreciation and respect to our brave soldiers as they return home to their friends and families.

"This year, as a nation, communities across the UK are celebrating their links to our armed services.

"And the Lancers' parade comes as we mark the anniversaries of the start of the First World War and the D-Day landings.

"Hundreds of people lined the streets when the regiment marched two years ago.

"I am sure everyone will want to give our brave men and women a warm welcome having completed a vital role in protecting people and help-ing Afghanistan rebuild and recover from the oppression of the Taliban.

Captain James Rickett, 9th/12th Royal Lancers, said it was a "huge honour" to be welcomed home by the communities who are supportive of the soldiers role in Afghanistan.

Mr Rickett said: "We have always enjoyed a brilliant welcome in Northampton, and it is a proud day for everyone connected to the Lancers.

"We are also privileged that we will be able to spend time with the community on Armed Forces Day."

The event is also part of Armed Forces Week, and Northampton Borough Council is inviting local groups and organisations to use the Market Square to promote their work and how they support serving and former service



men and women.

Everyone coming into Northampton to show their appreciation for the Lancers will be able to park for free at

St John's, St Michael's, Grosvenor Centre and Mayorhold

Full details of timings and the parade route will be announced in June.

It will be the first time the Lancers have visited the town since they were awarded Freedom of the Borough.

Service to be held to remember **D-Day**

More than 100 representatives of the Armed Forces, both serving and retired, are expected to take part in a parade in Northampton which will mark the 70th anniversary of the D-Day landings.

On Sunday, June 8, a special service will begin at 2pm at the war memorial in Abington Square.

The standards of regiments with a wartime Northamptonshire connection will be draped over drums piled to create an altar for a service of commemoration. At 3pm there will be a military parade from Abington Square to the Guildhall

Councillor David Mackintosh, Leader of Northampton Borough Council said: "It is only right we honour the bravery and sacrifices of those men and

"The veterans of D-Day are heroes.



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Thursday, May 29, 2014 www.northamptonchron.co.uk NORTHAMPTON

Honoured golfer has day at palace

A man from Northamptonshire has collected his British Empire Medal for services to golf.

Martin Izzard was announced as a recipient of the award in the New Year's Honour's list.

And he recently received his medal at a ceremony held at the Guildhall in Northampton.

Mr Izzard was recognised for his services to golf through the Northamptonshire Golf Partnership, which he chairs and which has introduced hundreds of new players into the game in the county.

Martin, who is involved in golf at club, county and national level, said: "I know other honours get presented at Buckingham Palace, but the Guildhall in our county town was just fine for me.

"I don't see the medal as being for me, really, it's for Northamptonshire golf, and if this raises the profile of the sport here just a little bit more



then that's fantastic.'

 $Although\,Mr\,Izzard\,did\,not\,receive\,his\,medal\,from\,a\,member\,of\,the\,Royal\,Family,\,he\,was\,not\,disappointed.$

He said: "Just a few days later was a garden party at Buckingham Palace to which all the latest British Empire Medal recipients were invited. So I did get my special day at the palace in the end."

Mr Izzard has has been a member of Northampton Golf Club for more than 40 years, is a trustee of the club and a past captain. He has been County President and has recently retired after 26 years on the county's executive committee.

He said: "It's such a good game in so many ways: there's the friendship and camaraderie, it's good for you and gets you outside in the countryside, and it teaches you about dealing with the ups and downs of life."



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16 NORTHAMPTON MERCURY www.northamptonchron.co.uk Thursday, May 29, 2014



Memories of an artist and a father

Northampton artist and "great dad" John Luce Lockett has died at the age of 62 after fighting a long battle with prostate cancer.

His son, musician Billy Lockett, 22, said his father had been an inspiration who "supported me through everything, he drove me to my first gig and came to nearly all the rest".

Before he died on May 9, the internationally-renown artist both studied and worked in Northampton.

He opened his own gallery in the town in 1983 and founding the Northampton School of Drawing at his home in Abington.

His impressive resume included creating the iconic Bounty mutineer Fletcher Christian portrait, the internationally exhibited NightHawks collection and his last venture, Homage to Gustav Klimt.

But despite producing extremely successful commissions, Mr Lockett always



John Luce Lockett, who died last week

preferred to paint from his own inspiration, creating his own narrative.

Mr Lockett said: "My dad tought meyou can make a job out of art and he proved it by bringing me up happily on that living."

"He was really sociable and loved his teaching, going to the pub, meeting people and jamming on his recorder.

"Some of my happiest memories with him are of when we used to go on holidays around France together in his camper van.

"I was always surrounded by his art work and I want to do everything I can to keep selling it and continue his legacy."

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Thursday, May 29, 2014 www.northamptonchron.co.uk

ORTHAMPTON MERCURY

Councillors miss meetings

County councillors have defended their attendance records after a report showed 13 members did not go to a single cabinet meeting in the space of a year.

Northamptonshire's executive decision-making body meets monthly to approve major policy decisions.

Members, including the opposition, are free to attend to air their views against such policies and propose amendments.

But a recent report by the county showed 13 councillors – 10 Conservatives, a Liberal Democrat, a UKIP member and an independent – did not go to a single meeting between April 2013 and May 2014.

However a county council spokesperson said: "Attendance to cabinet meetings should not be used to determine how involved a councillor is in council business as they all attend many other meetings, committees, subcommittees and scrutiny as part of their role as councillor."

The report showed some had missed half of their com-



 $Meetings \, are not \, compulsory, but they play host to the \, major \, council decision \, making. \, 13 \, councillors \, did \, not go \, to \, a \, single \, cabinet \, meeting \, in the \, 2013-14 \, period \, council \, counci$

mittee meetings too.

Councillor Jim Broomfield (UKIP, Brackley) did not attend any cabinet meetings and had missed two-out-of-four meetings of the personnel committee.

But the councillor said work commitments – as owner of Brackley Industrial Maintenance and the Brackley Antiques Cellar – had made it difficult to attend in some cases. He said: "The problem with the committees is the dates of the meetings change. In one case they changed the date four times. It makes it difficult to attend when you run two businesses."

Councillor Mike Hallam, (Con, Boothville and Parklands) has also missed every cabinet this year alongside half of the finance and resource scrutiny committee meetings and two full councils

But he stressed that his job and commitments to Northampton Borough Council – of which he is cabinet member for environment – had also impacted on his County Hall attendance.

He said: "Clearly I've a full-

timejob as well, but it's important the council draws from the real world. When meetings are in the day you are going to get people who cannot get to every meeting.

"I think my attendance needs to be seen as part of the whole picture. My attendance at borough council meeting has been excellent," he added

Disabled get chance to try sport

A NATIONAL charity supporting disabled people in sports is launching a new programme of events in Northamptonshire this month.

Sportability provides free places for people with paralysis to take part in specialised sport events as part of their aim to focus on their ability over their disability.

Events in Northamptonshire include:

June 4 – Quadbiking and clay pigeon shooting at Whilton Mill, Daventry

June 7 – Sailing at Pitsford Reservoir, Brixworth June 12 – Wheelchair

June 12 – Wheelchair Tennis at Gosling Sports Park, Welwyn Garden City

Chief Executive, David Heard, said: "Using sport and other challenging pursuits, Sportability seeks to put the purpose back into lives shattered by paralysis"

For more information on how to get involved with Sportability, visit the website: www.sportability.org. uk





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Northampton

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slab sided body's width easy to judge, it's a rare country road that feels a bit too tight as white van man approaches on a timed delivery.

Put your foot down and the big diesel engine does a fair job of impersonating the power unit you might find in a twoseater sports car, with a rush of acceleration.

Cruising the motorways has never felt as relaxed as aboard this Range Rover, whose deliciously comfortable seats made the living room sofa feel a bit downmarket.

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What is more surprising is that it returned a frankly astonishing 36mpg according to the trip computer after 400 miles of mostly motorway use.

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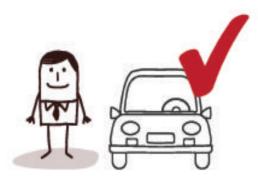
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SPORT

Wilson: Pressure is off Saints

Cup triumph could prove key ahead of Sarries showdown

RUGBY

James Wilson feels the Amlin Challenge Cup success has lifted the pressure off Saints ahead of Saturday's Aviva Premiership final.

Wilson came off the bench in the closing stages at Cardiff Arms Park last Friday, as he and his team-mates celebrated a 30-16 victory against Bath.

It was Saints' first piece of silverware since the LV= Cup triumph of 2010 and it ended a run of four successive final

Wilson believes that could be key going into this weekend's clash with Saracens, who suffereda 23-6 Heineken Cupfinal loss to Toulon at the Millennium Stadium last Saturday.

"The win last Friday is going to push us on," said the Kiwi utility back. "We've got that feeling of winning a final and that pressure's going to be lifted off us a bit.

"Going into this week is awesome. It was a massive build-up last year (before Saints lost to Leicester in the Premiership final).

'We know what it's like to be on the wrong side of it at the end and hopefully we can do the job and come away with the trophy.

Wilson grew up in Invercargill watching big games at Twickenham, with his home nation, New Zealand, involved

in some titanic tussles while touring England.

And the 30-year-old is now hoping to secure some happy memories of his own at English rugby HQ this weekend.

"Twickenham is one of the major rugby grounds in the world," said Wilson. "We definitely want to do the job there. Last Friday was amazing, but this weekend could be the cream on the cake.

"You want to play on big stages and at the best grounds. There were massive games between the All Blacks and Eng-

"Whenever they toured over here it was wicked. It was awesome and it was definitely the big stage of rugby.

"You want to be on that stage growing up, you want to be part of it and this is an opportunity to do that."

Meanwhile, boss Jim Mallinder says Saints are a better team than when they reached the Premiership final last year and is eager for them to go one better on Saturday.

"We've been disappointed in recent finals to lose, but we're improving as a team," said the director of rugby.

We've shown that we're a better team than what we were last year, we've shown that in our performances.

'We showed it against Leicester (in the Premiership play-off semi-final win) and we showed it again last Fri-



Cardoza hoping to 'settle things down'

COBBLERS chairman David Cardoza says the decision to give three-year contracts to Marc Richards and Zander Diamond is due to both longterm planning and a desire to sign those specific play-

Striker Richards and centre-back Diamond have both been brought in

FOOTBALL

on deals until 2017, while Ivan Toney has also completed a contract until that time and Chris Hackett has inked a new two-year arrangement.

Manager Chris Wilder, too, is under wraps for another three years himself and the plan from the boardroom is to 'settle things down' after a period of great change and uncertainty.

Thirty-nine players were used in the first team last season and the club are keen to avoid that level of instability, a factor which has been cited as a key one in their

struggle against relegation.

Chris (Wilder) is here for another three years and I'm sure it will go longer - we want to settle things down a little bit," said Cardoza.

"He's here for three years so let's get the spine of the teaminplace for three years.

"With Marc I don't know if he'd have signed for two vears. He definitely wanted to come, but I think he might have had to have gone off and thought about it if it had been for less than three

"We had him here and we wanted him signed before he left so we decided to get it done there and then.

'We tried to sign him last

vear but I said to him I'm glad we didn't because I don't think he would have been

'Zander wanted three years and Chris wants him here for three years so that was quite straightforward. They can easily both play in league one so we're happy with that.'

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